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WATER CONSERVATION IN THE GREAT PLAINS

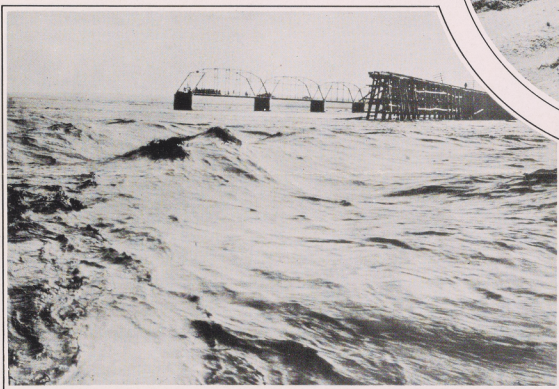
The lack of soil moisture has been largely responsible for frequent crop failures and dust storms in the Great Plains region within recent years; yet a large amount of water falling as rain or snow has been permitted to escape as run-off.



Even on almost level land, straight furrows up and down the gentle slopes act as drainage ditches and permit the water needed for crop production to run off fields during heavy rains.



Water permitted to collect in low spots on a field drowns crops. This water could be used for crop production if properly distributed over the field.



Floods downstream are caused by run-off water from upstream fields and pastures.



Flood damage to lands and property may be a direct result of uncontrolled run-off from upstream areas.



Contour tillage conserves water. Level rows serve as miniature terraces, holding water on the field where it falls, thus making it available for crop production.



Level terraces support contour tillage by holding the excess water during heavy rains. They also serve as permanent guide lines for contour farming.

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